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HU Journal, Volume 13 Issue 2

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Howard University Journal

A WEEKLY PAPER PUBLISHED BY THE STUDENTS OF HOWARD UNIVERSITY, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Volume XIII

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1915

Number 2

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America: Her Attitude Toward the Negro



If a foreigner should hear the National Hymn of America sung, undoubtedly he would think that every American was bursting with praise to her for her care and devotion to him. To a certain extent the foreigner would be right but after he had closely surveyed the situation; had heard the story of his life, his misery and injustices, the foreigner would immediately change his opinion of America and her attitude towards her people.

The Negro did not wander to America in search of a livelihood or a start in the world, in other words, he came not as an immigrant. America did not hold out to him a torchlight that he might be safely guided to her shores and as a welcome to a land of opportunity. The Negro came not on his own accord but at the command and will of the white man. The Negro, fettered and bound in chains, was ushered by his white brother into the wilds of America where the ferocious animals and savage Indians dwelt. There the African slave toiled for more than two centuries. He turned the forests, the marshes and everglades into beautiful fields and handsome estates for his master. The slave found America in a state of destitution: her virgin soil had not been cleared and her huge forests seemed almost impenetrable. The white man had viewed this destitution for over a hundred years and nothing had been done to cut the huge forests, or to clear the vir-

gin soil. Only a few towns were built along the Atlantic Coast. This stranger, this slave, this Negro came, penetrated the forest, cleared the virgin soil and made the land the America of to-day. We say America of to-day because it has all been built upon that solid foundation laid by the hands of the Negro. He labored for over two hundred years and gave to the white man, in fact, to every one, but himself, a place of opportunity, liberty and freedom.

What has America given to the Negro as a compensation for his faithful and loyal service? The average American white man boasts: that the Negro has been given freedom; that he enjoys the rights and privileges of a citizen; that he is protected under the laws and by the Constitution of America. To hear this would make one feel ennobled and exalted.

Turn with us please and survey America from north to south; behold her attitude toward ten million Negroes, the posterity of those African slaves that transformed American forests into beautiful fields. In one section we find the laws legislated and enforced that deny to the Negro the same privileges that the other races enjoy. We are faced with the segregation problem; the property laws, some of which forbid colored tenants living in white communities; and even diabolical and damnable motion picture films displayed in the large cities that the minds of the young and, too, of the pure may be inflamed with prejudice, envy and bitter hatred against the Negro. Then, as we look upon

(Continued on Page 4)

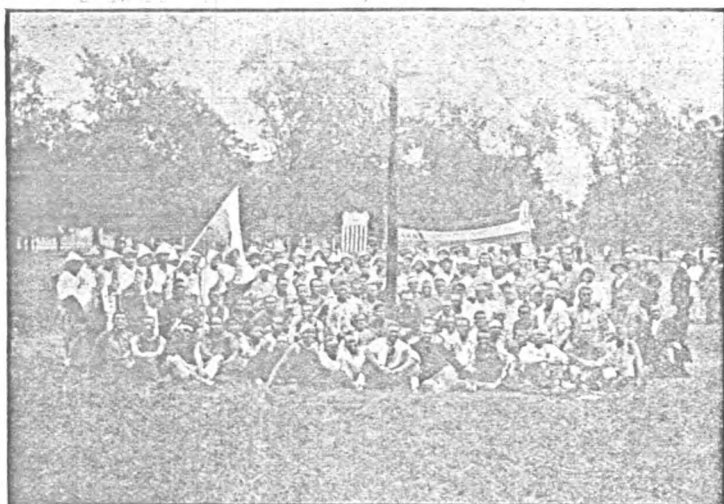
THE RUSH By A Sophomore



THE annual class rush between the Sophomore and Freshmen classes is becoming the most interesting and exciting of inter-class contests. From the opening of school till the eventful day the rush is uppermost in the minds of the underclassmen.

On Friday, October 5, under a heavy sky and threatening weather, the second year men erected the pole on the athletic field at the regulation height, fourteen feet from the ground, and placed their "purple and gold" pennant at the top as a defiance to the first year men. Infused with a genuine spirit of warfare the Sophs surrounded the pole and at 12:35 the pistol shot gave the signal for the Freshies to advance against what proved to be an impregnable fortress. "Here they come," some one shouted, and the little Freshies advanced with painted faces and trembling limbs.

The proud Sophs, who enjoy the distinction of being the only class to take the flag from such a height met their foe through the din of ringing songs, with a fighting tension 100 per cent. The first phalanx of the Freshmen were quickly scattered and checked without a single one's getting to the pole; a second phalanx soon followed only to be met and driven back by an eager reserve of the Sophomores. Sharp fighting ensued, however, and the third division of Freshies was summoned. For eight minutes there was an ebb and flow of battle for the



The Victorious "Sophs" and Their Fair Rooters. (The Rush)

possession of the first six feet of the pole, when the last reserves of the Sophomores were sent in and quickly hurled back the already exhausted Freshmen. That the flag could not be reached was clearly evident after the first charge, but the second year men were cautioned not to permit the camera men to get a picture with a first year man on the pole; and just how thoroughly this was done was one of the wonders of the occasion. The end of fifteen minutes of fighting found the "purple and gold" still floating in the air, and the firing of

the pistol announced victory for the gallant Sophomores.

It must be said for the Freshmen that they fought tenaciously, and their method of attack well deserves praise. But the valorous defense of the Sophomores was more than a revelation to the enthusiastic spectators; for even at the last three minutes of fighting seven men were sent in who might well have been kept out.

A word about the (G. A. R.) Grand Army of Rooters—for thus were the Sophomore girls ensigned. Trimmed in Purple and Gold, and with helmets of corresponding hue, they marched up the walk from the Main Building waving banners, singing jubilant war songs and approached the grand stand amid the cheers of hundreds of onlookers. The high spirit of the girls, their loyal sympathy and their convincing attitude, not only thrilled their undaunted brothers, but silently said to them: "The girls of '18 expect the boys of '18 to do their duty and maintain their supremacy". It can at least be said of the girls that without their enthusiasm, cheering and encouragement, the boys could never have routed the attacking foe so decisively.

When we shall have passed, at the end of the year, into the sacred realms of upper classmen,

we shall go with the proud distinction of being the only class to take down a flag from the pole in the history of class rushes at Howard, and at the same time not permitting ours to trail in the dust. Some saw, others may read, but every Freshman will remember the rush of 1915 and their noble conquerors the victorious "Sophomores." —*Joffre*

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Young Men's Christian Association Meetings

The Y. M. C. A., under the leadership of its new president, Mr. W. E. Ricks, seems to have been regenerated. An evidence of this is the intense interest manifested by both officers and members in a sincere effort to increase the enrollment of members. A membership campaign is now on. Nearly two hundred names of paid up members have already been added to the roll, and it is the earnest desire of Mr. James W. Pace, chairman of the Membership Committee, to have by November the fifteenth at least five hundred men enrolled.

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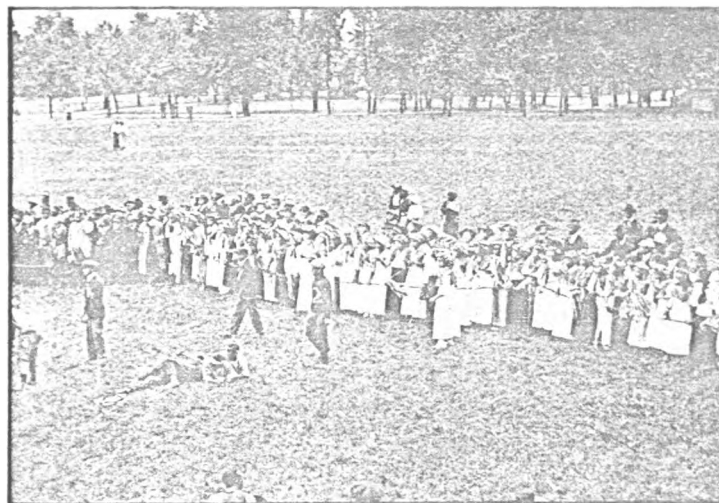
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The Spirit of the Freshmen Girls Greatly Inspired Their Warriors Around the Pole. (The Rush)

some very representative men for the series of lectures to be delivered at the regular Y. M. C. A. hour every Sunday afternoon. Two of the scheduled lectures have already been delivered and, in addition to these, Mr. C. H. Tobias, one of the secretaries of the International Association, addressed the students in Chapel one Sunday afternoon on the subject "The Importance of Bible Study in a University." At this meeting Mr. J. F. Moorland, sen-

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ior secretary of the International Association, was also present.

Two other addresses that deserve favorable comment are "Has Christianity Failed?" by Secretary Logan, and "Humility and Manhood" by Rev. Emory B. Smith. These addresses by two Howard graduates were well received by a large and appreciative audience.

On the following Sundays in October, the seventeenth, twenty-fourth, and the thirty-first respectively, the following men will lecture: Dr. E. L. Parks, "The Application of Christian Principles to the Industrial Problems;" Dean Kelly Miller, "Life"; and Professor William Pickens, subject to be announced.

On Saturday evening, October 16, the Y. M. C. A. will give its annual reception to the new students in the University gymnasium. This reception is for all Howard men, especially the new students. An elaborate program in which every department of the University is to be represented has been arranged. This reception is opened to all students of Howard University.

—S. M. Blackburn

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Entered as Second Class matter October 9, 1908
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Friday, October 15, 1915

¶ We should like to call the attention of the students to the list of advertisers in THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY JOURNAL. Many of our students come to Washington before making their winter purchases, in order that they may take advantage of the bargains offered here. To such students we suggest that they look carefully over the list of THE JOURNAL advertisers before they purchase their winter goods. Our advertisers are men of reliability and integrity, and will exercise the greatest care in attending to your wants. You will do well to give them a call.

¶ The work of the college branch of the N. A. A. C. P., in trying to prevent showing "The Birth of

a Nation" in Washington deserves favorable comment. This film, aside from its objectionable scenes, causes no little amount of rancor to exist between the races wherever it is booked to be shown. The reputation of the film has gone before it. Many who have never seen it are willing to do all in their power to prevent its being shown. It has been a frequent cause of dissension and discord, and often violence has been resorted to in order to keep it out of some cities. Whatever may be the attitude of some toward the exhibition of the film, it is very evident that more harm than good will result from its appearance in Washington; and the Capital of the nation where at present there is noticeable feeling of amicability among the races can not at this juncture afford to be turned into a nest-bed of antagonism, dissension, discord and strife even by so spectacular a production as "The Birth of a Nation".

America: Her Attitude Toward the Negro

(Continued from Page 1)

another section we behold a scene of almost intolerable suffering with the black man as the victim. Here we see the Negro standing helplessly in the midst of the "white supremacy." The Negro is helpless because he has no voice in making a law that is made for him to obey. The ballot is the citizen's power, but this power, so far as it concerns the Negro, has been curtailed or exhausted by the Judicial voice. The Constitution of the United States gives to the Negro the right of citizenship, the full protection of the law and the power of the ballot. The Constitution forbids a state to pass a law that will abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States or deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law. In the face of this constitution, the first law

of America, Mississippi, Georgia and Texas pass laws that curtail the privileges of Negroes. One state boldly denies Negroes the right to vote, another rejoices in her wholesale lynchings and still another heralds her colored servitude and "white supremacy" to the civilized world.

America, the home of races, has upon her shore sons from all climes. We find here the thrifty and intrepid German, the witty Irishman, the scrupulous and parsimonious Jew, the proud and fanciful Frenchman, the treacherous Indian, the progressive Caucasian, the kind-hearted and forgiving Negro. They are all here under the same flag and supposed to enjoy the same rights of liberty and peace. America has shown to the world her attitude towards her colored citizens those men that have always proved loyal and patriotic in times of peace and most assuredly in times of war are now crouched under a burden of injustices and wrongs. They cry to America and to her Constitution, which she so boldly dared

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States to disavow, for help and protection, but America and her American Constitution seem to turn to the loud and doleful voice of those appealing black citizens a cold back and a deaf ear. For over 50 years there has been this steady cry, this constant complaint, this doleful voice all asking for only justice. The Negro has refused sympathy and only asks for the rights and privileges, that others enjoy, but are denied him.

America undoubtedly has forgotten the days of her infancy, when the Negro roused her, reared her and put her before the world as a fair maiden among Nations. Her Constitution to the Negro is but a farce and her promises but insults. America has, by her actions, apparently relinquished all care for the Negro and seemingly has taken the attitude to enslave a second time her faithful servant, her master laborer, her skilled architect, and her most humble citizen.

—J. S. Heslip

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Athletic Meeting

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Last spring track activities took a sudden impetus at Howard and one of the most successful meets ever held on our campus took place. This new life given to athletics was due in a large measure to the energy of the manager of the track team. It is just such caliber of managers that our various teams need, because the success of any team in any branch of sport depends, to a large extent, upon the man at the head. Let the student body take notice and be out to the meeting in full force that we may begin our work in the right manner.

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ATHLETICS

Geo. B. Washington, Editor



Superhuman Effort of the Freshmen to Scale the Pole. (*The Rush*)

"The Assault and Defense of the Purple and Gold"

The annual Freshman-Sophomore flag rush, which event for the past three years has been looked upon as the most important physical contest engaged in by any two classes of students, took place on last Tuesday, the fifth of October. This contest will go down in the history of the University as being one of the cleanest battles ever waged between two rival classes.

Long before the time set for the contest crowds of students from every department of the University, as well as people from the city, began to crowd about the roped arena. Scattered around the greased pole, at the top of which proudly floated their purple and gold banner, sat the indomitable Sophs, sixty strong, awaiting the hour of the conflict. To their right stood the Sophomore girls be-decked in their class colors, singing their class songs and cheering their husky warriors. A few minutes

before the beginning of the contest the Freshmen girls marched across the campus and took their station opposite the Sophs, all the while singing and yelling in true college style.

In the meantime the first squad of Freshies, fifty strong, under the leadership of Green and Spenser marched with majestic step towards the roped arena. The time for the contest had come. At the crack of the pistol, an opening into the arena was made, and on came the Freshies with a mad rush. The fight was on. The Sophs with fiery zeal met the onslaught of the Freshies, and soon Freshie and Soph were locked in mortal strife. In less than four minutes every Freshie had a Soph busy and only a few Sophs were standing around the pole to defend it.

While the crowd was surging back and forth in its eagerness to witness this fearful struggle, a second band of Freshies, twenty in number appeared on the scene. The outlook for victory at this point favored the Freshmen. They quickly struck down the

Sophs around the pole, and then began their struggle to reach the Sophomore flag at the top of the greased pole. At this juncture capricious fortune came to the aid of the Sophs. With superhuman strength they regained their feet and fought their way again around the pole. The Freshmen in their mad desire made leap after leap at the pole but the Sophs jerked them down every time.

Time was rapidly passing as this kind of warfare was furiously going on, when the third and last company of Freshies rushed into the arena. With only four minutes of time left the Freshies battled strenuously to reach the Sophomores' flag. Time and again the Freshies boosted a man a little way up the pole but the Sophs always managed to bring him back to earth. In vain did the Freshies run and leap upon the backs of their comrades in an attempt to reach the enemy's flag. Thus they fought until the report of the gun ended the contest with the purple and gold still waving at the top of the pole.

The Sophs went wild with joy at their great victory. They paraded the campus bearing their victorious banner before them and won applause by the manner in which they sang their catchy college songs. On the other hand, the Freshmen girls loudly cheered their boys and marched from the field with a spirit that won for them great praise. The Freshmen lost but they fought like men and they can find consolation in that old adage, "There is no disgrace in an honest defeat."

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Howard Boys Win at Tennis

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A Tribute to Negro Music

Percy Grainger, the eminent Australian pianist and composer, has a very interesting article in the *Current Opinion* concerning the folk songs of the American Negro and the transition of Negro composers to the higher realms of music. Mr. Grainger has made a special study of folk songs and his opinions in this field are authoritative.

He finds a remarkable likeness between Negro and English folk songs. He does not attempt to generalize about this fact but believes the English Speaking musicians owe much to the Negro.

Mr. Grainger divides the development of music into three stages. The first is the folk song stage, the second is the vaudeville stage, the third is the classical sphere. Mr. Grainger is enthusiastic about the Negro's progress in this third stage and remarks: "It may be said that the folk music is dying out, but the same thing is happening in

other countries. Since it must die out it is good that the Negro race has such talented men as it undoubtedly has. As far as one can judge, the present mode of development, the present stage, viewed dispassionately is perfectly delightful." The article concludes with a glowing tribute to the New York Clef Club, to hear which is "more than worth one's while to travel across the Atlantic, and, too Will Marion Cook whose Songs, Exhortations and Piano Songs are in themselves works of real genius and originality that deserve a world-wide reputation."

Such impartial criticism coming from an authority in the musical world is both gratifying and inspiring. There is no better opportunity than here at Howard of preserving our simple and melodious folk songs and also encouraging and developing our music in the classical sphere.

—Eulalia Lane '16

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